

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DPW-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /085 W

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R 241837Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3447

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24760

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: FR, LA, VN, CB

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS CONCERNING INDOCHINA

REF: PARIS 23769

SUMMARY: QUAI OFFICER COVERING INDOCHINA GAVE A BRIEF
RUNDOWN ON FRENCH VIEWS SEPTEMBER 24. THE FRENCH WILL
STICK FAST TO THEIR POSITION THAT THE GRUNK HAS ONLY TO
RESPOND FORMALLY TO THE GOF APRIL 12 RECOGNITION
PROPOSAL AND RELATIONS CAN BE REESTABLISHED. QUAI HAS
GOOD, BUT NOT DEFINITE, INDICATIONS THAT SIHANOUK WILL
DEPART PEKING OCTOBER 3 OR 4 TO HEAD THE GRUNK
DELEGATION TO THE UNGA. FRENCH AID PROGRAMS WERE
PROCEEDING AS EXPECTED GIVEN THE EVOLUTION IN LAOS;
ALTHOUGH THE LPF HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES, THE GOF
EXPECTED CUT BACKS. THE QUAI WAS SURPRISED THAT THE
PRC HAD NOT RESPONDED TO THE POINTS WHICH THE USSR AND
DRV WERE SCORING IN LAOS. FRENCH WERE VERY INTERESTED
IN THE CURRENT LE DUAN TRIP TO PEKING, THE MOST IMPORT-
ANT EVENT IN SOME TIME. END SUMMARY

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1. HENRY BOLLE, FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA WHO HAS HANDLED INDOCHINESE AFFAIRS AT THE QUAI FOR MORE THAN 6 YEARS, LEFT HIS POSITION 23 SEPTEMBER WHEN JEAN DE NOIVILLE RETURNED FROM VACATION TO REASSUME HIS POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF ASIA. A SUCCESSOR FOR BOLLE HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED. DURING HIS ABSENCE PATRICK VILLEMUR, WHO PREVIOUSLY HANDLED ONLY VIETNAM, WILL BE TEMPORARILY COVERING INDOCHINESE MATTERS; EMBOFF HAD A PERIODIC TOUR D'HORIZON WITH VILLEMUR ON 24 SEPTEMBER.

2. CAMBODIA. VILLEMUR SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO BASIC CHANGE IN THE FRENCH POSITION CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GRUNK. THE QUAI HAD HEARD THAT THE GRUNK HAD RESPONDED TO UK, DANISH AND JAPANESE MESSAGES OF RECOGNITION, BUT PARIS HAS STILL RECEIVED NOTHING OFFICIAL IN RESPONSE TO ITS APRIL 12 MESSAGE. VILLEMUR NOTED THAT PARIS DID NOT CONSIDER SIHANOUK'S STATEMENT OF "MORAL THANKS" AS BEING AN ADEQUATE, GOVERNMENTAL REPLY. VILLEMUR COMMENTED THAT BY SPENDING SEVERAL DAYS IN FRANCE AND BY SAYING VERY FRIENDLY THINGS, OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED AT FNCE, IENG SARY WAS CLEARLY MAKING A FRIENDLY GESTURE. IN TURN, THE FRENCH HAD FACILITATED THE VISIT BUT MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT THEY WERE STILL AWAITING A FORMAL GOVERNMENT REPLY TO THEIR APRIL 12 STATEMENT. VILLEMUR THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A QUESTION OF "MISUNDERSTANDING" AND THERE WAS REALLY NO BASIC DIFFERENCE IN SUBSTANCE BETWEEN GOF AND GRUNK. THE GOF THOUGHT THAT IENG SARY'S VISIT HAD PROVIDED AN OCCASION NOT TO REMEDY THE MISUNDERSTANDING, BUT RATHER TO MAKE THEIR POINT THAT THE FRENCH HAD ALREADY, ON APRIL 12, GONE AS FAR AS THE UK, DENMARK AND JAPAN. THE GOF HAD RECEIVED A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM IENG SARY FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO PEKING THANKING THE GOF FOR ITS COURTESY. SO LONG AS THE GRUNK DID NOT REPLY TO THE APRIL 12 STATEMENT, THE GOF WOULD NOT MOVE, BUT WHEN THE GRUNK DID RESPOND, THE GOF WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND FAVORABLY. VILLEMUR COMMENTED THAT THE PRC WAS PROBABLY BEHIND THE GRUNK DECISION TO SEEK WIDER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THIS TIME.

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3. SIHANOUK. THE FRENCH HAVE RECEIVED FURTHER STRONG INDICATIONS THAT SIHANOUK WILL HEAD THE CAMBODIAN DELEGATION TO THE UNGA. RECENT, BUT STILL TENTATIVE PLANS CALL FOR SIHANOUK TO LEAVE PEKING FOR NEW YORK VIA PARIS ON OCTOBER 3 OR 4 FOLLOWING THE PRC NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION. THE GRUNK APPARENTLY THOUGHT ITS REPRESENTATIVE WOULD ADDRESS THE UNGA ABOUT OCTOBER 8

AND WISHED SIHANOUK IN NEW YORK AT LEAST A FEW DAYS
BEFORE THAT DATE. VILLEMUR COMMENTED THAT IT WAS STILL
NOT 100 PER CENT SURE THAT THE CAMBODIANS, WHO HAD NOT
ALWAYS BEEN TERRIBLY RELIABLE, WOULD MAINTAIN THESE
PRELIMINARY PLANS. THE FRENCH HAD NO INDICATION OF THE
OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION NOR WHERE THEY WOULD

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APPLY FOR U.S. VISAS.

4. LAOS. VILLEMUR SAID THE GOF WAS PROCEEDING WITH
ITS BILATERAL AID PROGRAM FOR LAOS, BUT THERE WOULD
OBVIOUSLY BE IMPORTANT CHANGES, PARTICULARLY IN THE
EDUCATIONAL FIELD. THERE HAD BEEN NO REPLY TO THE
FRENCH REQUEST CONCERNING PERMISSION FOR TEACHERS TO
RETURN TO PROVINCIAL SCHOOLS, AND THE QUAI HAD NOW
BASICALLY CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE
PERMISSION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. ON THE OTHER HAND IT
APPEARED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN SENDING

TEACHERS TO VIENTIANE. HOWEVER, THE QUAI HAD CONCLUDED THAT TEACHERS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES WOULD PROBABLY BE PREVENTED FROM TEACHING, BUT NOT TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE. THE LPF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALREADY SAID THEY HOPED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE FRENCH EDUCATION, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM AT LEAST FOR THE COMING YEAR. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE CHANGES IN THE COMMUNIST TIMETABLE FOR TAKEOVER, THE FRENCH WERE NOT RELYING
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EXCESSIVELY ON SUCH ASSURANCES. THEY CONSIDERED THAT THE DISORGANIZATION IN VIENTIANE COULD ALTER THE PROGRAM AT ANY TIME.

5. VILLEMUR SAID THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN LAOS IN THE PROVINCES AS WELL AS THE CAPITAL HAD INCREASED ENORMOUSLY BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHINESE REACTION WHICH THE FRENCH HAD NOTED TO DATE --EXCEPT VERBAL DISAPPROVAL.

6. VIETNAM. THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT WAS PROBABLY THE CURRENT VISIT OF LE DUAN TO PEKING. IT WAS INDICATIVE OF TENG'S PROMINENCE IN FOREIGN MATTERS, THAT HE SHOULD BE THE HOST FOR THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE LDD, WHO HELD NO GOVERNMENTAL POSITION. VILLEMUR THOUGHT IT PREMATURE TO COMMENT ON THE VISIT BUT EXPECTED SOON THERE WOULD BE SOME REPORT FROM THEIR EMBASSIES IN PEKING AND MOSCOW, WHICH WAS LE DUAN'S NEXT STOP. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE PUBLISHED SPEECHES THAT EACH SIDE WAS STICKING TO ITS WELL KNOWN POLICIES. VILLEMUR THOUGHT THE "FORMAL UNIFICATION" OF VIETNAM WOULD BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED, BUT THEY HAD HEARD FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT THE USSR HAD ALREADY PRESSURED THE DRV TO HOLD UP UNIFICATION OF VIETNAM PARTICULARLY DURING THE CURRENT UNGA SESSION. VILLEMUR ALSO THOUGHT DRV RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY CAMBODIA, WOULD BE IMPORTANT ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. CHINA CLEARLY EXERCISED THE DOMINANT INFLUENCE OVER THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF CAMBODIA, BUT IT WAS NOT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANCE THAT THE FIRST IMPORTANT FOREIGNER TO VISIT THE NEW CAMBODIA WAS LE DUAN. VILLEMUR PROPOSED A FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION AFTER THE NEWS OF THE LE DUAN TRIP HAD REACHED PARIS.
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